

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

and mandarins had more chance for self-expression. In addition to forming secret societies where they discussed politics[^] officials often embodied severe criticism of government policy in their annual letter to the Emperor. At the monthly meeting in the Governor's residence, the mandarins had their only opportunity for common discussion of provincial affairs. The public, too, knowing the date of these sessions, was able to present its complaints, and in this mild way to exercise t minor control over abuses. Though the situation was in some ways to that of France before Kenaudet's Gazette (1630), the Annamite people were virtually mute and public opinion non-existent* or at best embryonic.

When the *Nationale* founded an annex at Saigon in 1879* ^{t'ie} Indo-Chinese press was born. Its first manifestation were the of the Agricultural Committee, official documents, and the el *Reconnaissances*¹—all naturally state-subsidized.

When the *d*[^] began publishing local news, along with state and vital statistics, the colony's first newspaper came into existence. The political press had a stormy debut. *Le Gong*, founded by Peire in 1879,, began a violent attack upon many of Saigon's Notables.

Fines a prison sentence sent its editor scurrying to Hong-Kong. THs symbolic of the future. Political newspapers in China numerous, **virulent**, and short-lived.²

The first printing press of TonMn was a branch of the **Chinese Imprimerie** (1883). Two years later Schneider's press prospered rapidly. Its most important publication the *dm* the **colony's best and oldest** newspaper. The carfy of Toekia un&peclalized; literary, economic,

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